



Weddings

At Listowel Evangelical
Missionary Church



OFFICIATING WEDDINGS

So you would like to get married and are looking for someone to officiate at your wedding?

Typically what is required is the following:

1. Marriage Preparation Counseling, which includes meeting with the pastor for two or three sessions and completing the Prepare-Enrich questionnaire. More info on the Marriage Preparation sheet. Submission of the **(online) form for couples**. Please read all the information on this page first. You can connect directly with the pastor to inquire about their availability to officiate at your wedding.

In order to allow sufficient time to arrange for a pastor and marriage preparation, it is preferred that you start the process at least six months in advance of your wedding date.

During busy times of the ministry year or popular wedding weekends it may not always be possible, but we can suggest other options to have someone officiate at your wedding.

COST

The costs involved include an honorarium and mileage reimbursement for the pastor, and could include accommodation costs as well. The honorarium for the pastor(s), whether officiating or participating in the rehearsal and the wedding, is \$400 per pastor. Though every wedding is unique, there are often common elements that require a significant amount of time and attention.

Commonly, these elements involve:

- Pre-meeting(s) and communication with the couple
- Wedding rehearsal
- Service/message preparation
- Commuting/travel time
- Service involvement

Although your particular ceremony may be something simple (or perhaps even more complex), there is one standard officiating rate of \$200 for the sake of clarity and consistency and mileage costs of \$0.45/km. For significant distances it may be necessary to provide accommodation for the pastor. Inviting the pastor and spouse to the rehearsal dinner, or reception/dinner is at your discretion please feel no obligation to do so. Acceptance will be subject to their availability.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In a marriage, you are planning to bring together two families, two sets of values, two approaches to home life. There may be no more significant life transition than that experienced in entering into the marriage covenant. Complete understanding of this commitment, including God's design for marriage, as well as a foundational understanding of one another, is essential preparation for this lifelong commitment. This is why we see it as a necessity that you experience marriage preparation counseling prior to being married by a pastor from LEMC.

The resource used for pre-marital counseling comes primarily from Enrich Canada called Prepare-Enrich (www.enrichcanada.ca). The Prepare-Enrich program pro-

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vides relationship assessment tools which include questionnaires or compatibility tests (otherwise known as assessment inventories) that help couples identify their strengths, areas that need growth, major sources of stress and helps encourage their communication and conflict resolution skills.

The Prepare-Enrich assessment tool along with other information during pre-marital counseling will cover everything from God's design for marriage,

family background awareness, communication & conflict resolution, goals & roles, sexuality and finances.

The questionnaire is done individually online. After this is completed the pastor will meet with you as a couple 2-3 times to discuss the results and go over any other specific information about the ceremony itself.

The cost of this assessment tool is approximately \$40-45 to be paid by each couple directly to Enrich Canada at the time the log on to the website. A detailed email will be sent on how to get started.

Where there has been a previous marriage or where there are children of either person involved, extra time will be spent with a couple in understanding the impact of these issues.

During the marriage preparation the officiating pastor will strive to get to know you as

individuals and as a couple and hear your story. This helps to ensure that he is able to meaningfully share in your wedding.

WEDDING CEREMONY PLANNING

In North American culture, marriage is both a secular and a sacred institution. The legal requirements for a marriage ceremony are very simple and prescribed but there are elements that you can make your own. Your pastor will meet with you once or twice to plan the details of your ceremony.

WEDDING TRENDS

- **Day/Time:** Friday evening or Sunday afternoon weddings are becoming more common as these reduce both cost and time. The challenges for Fridays include travel from out of town, travel from work, the time desired between the service and the reception for pictures, etc.
- **Service:** Briefer over longer services (30–40 minutes) even for those whose tradition includes longer services. That said, it is encouraged to make the ceremony special by adding personal elements, special music, slideshow, prayers, scripture or poems read by significant people in the couple's life.
- **Reception:** Some couples opt for a minimum number of guests for a formal wedding reception, either followed by a dance to which a wider body of friends are invited (perhaps including dessert or a light buffet), or by holding a friends party at a later date, usually within a month of the wedding.
- **Rehearsal/Reception Dinners:** Inviting the pastor and spouse to either dinner is at your discretion there is no obligation to do so. Acceptance will be subject to their availability.

THE CEREMONY

The following components are options to consider as you plan your wedding service. Only those with an asterisk (*) are required.

- Prelude music
- Seating of groom's parents
- Seating of mother of bride (if not escorting bride)
- Lighting of candles (usually mothers of the Bride and Groom)
- Entrance of groom and attendants and officiant
- Procession of the bridesmaids (music)
- Procession of the bride (music) (attendees stand)
- Presentation of the bride to the groom (announced or silent)
- Welcome remarks by officiating pastor

- Opening prayer
- Introductory remarks about marriage by pastor
- Declaration of intent *
- Blessing of the parents, families and friends
- Reading of scripture or other readings
- Participatory hymns or worship songs
- Special music
- Message to the bride and groom (by officiating pastor about 7-10 minutes)
- Vows *
- Exchange of wedding rings with ring vows *
- Proclamation of marriage *
- Kiss
- Lighting of the Unity Candle
- Signing of the marriage documents * (musical interlude or special music)
- Prayer
- Announcements
- Benediction
- Presentation of the bride and groom
- Recessional (with music)

SCRIPTURES OFTEN USED

(most commonly used)

- **Old Testament**

- o Genesis 1:26-28 *
- o Genesis 2:18-24 * (often used in introductory remarks)
- o Ruth 1:16-17 (somewhat out of context, but it is fairly popular)
- o Psalm 37:3-6
- o Psalm 91
- o Psalm 127
- o Psalm 128
- o Song of Psalms 8:6-7
- o Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 *
- o Isaiah 55:10-13
- o Lamentations 3:22-24

- **New Testament**

- o Matthew 5:13-16
- o Matthew 7:24-29
- o Matthew 19: 4-6 *
- o Matthew 22:34-40
- o Mark 10:6-9
- o John 15:12-17 *
- o Romans 12:9-18 *
(take a look at The Message)
- o 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *
[especially verses 4-8 (first sentence)]
- o Ephesians 3:14-21 *
- o Ephesians 4:25-32
- o Ephesians 5:1-2
- o Colossians 3:12-17 *
- o 1 John 4:7-19 *
(or parts of it such as 10-12 and 16b-19)

WEDDING VOWS

Couples often wish to develop their own wedding vows. Google “wedding vows” and you will find a wealth of ideas!

If you wish to design your wedding vows, you will need to submit them to the officiating pastor at least two weeks in advance for their approval. There are three required ingredients of vows that you develop yourself:

- Permanence – i.e. “until death parts us”
- Exclusivity – i.e. “forsaking all others”
- In all circumstances – i.e. “for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health”

Some couples prefer to use traditional wedding vows similar to the following:

“I, ____, do take you ____ to be my beloved wife (husband).

To have and to hold, from this day forward,

For better, for worse,

For richer, for poorer,

In sickness and in health,

Forsaking all others, I will be yours alone,

And I will love and cherish you

Until death parts us.”

THE RING CEREMONY

Once again the couple may wish to design their own ring ceremony. There are no specific requirements for this, but your pastor will want to consult with you on what you have designed at least two weeks in advance. A traditional ring ceremony is as follows:

“Whenever the world sees this ring on your finger, it will be a symbol of my love for you. Although I may not be present with you, it represents my faithfulness to you, always honouring you, and cherishing you, as my wife (husband).”

VENUE

At LEMC

If you wish to use LEMC for your wedding and/or reception, arrangements for the use of the facility including rehearsal time, cleaning, sound and lighting technicians can

be made: www.lemconline.org/facility

If you require any microphones, sound equipment or want to project anything on the screen, you will need use one of our sound technicians. The cost is \$50 for the first hour, \$15 per hour after that.

We are excited to say that LEMC has the ability to video and live stream your special day for those who cannot be here in person. Arrangements will have to be made with our Multi-Media Technician about setting this up and additional costs.

Please arrange all of this well in advance to avoid being disappointed.

AT ANOTHER CHURCH OR VENUE

Couples often wish to be married at a location other than the church and that isn't a problem. It will be necessary to discuss the location with the officiating pastor and to arrange for a rehearsal at the location during the week prior to the wedding. Outdoor weddings are also very popular. Again the location will have to be arranged with the officiating pastor. An appropriate sound system, lighting of candles, and alternate arrangements for inclement weather, are special considerations in the case of outdoor weddings and are the responsibility of the couple getting married.

Every attempt will be made to officiate weddings at a location within 100 km of Listowel. Beyond that area it may not be possible to arrange for a pastor if it involves significant travel time.

MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS

The legal documentation for marriage is obtaining a **marriage license** at any license issuing office (usually any City Hall) or having the **Banns** read publicly.

To obtain a Marriage License the application form will need to be completed and taken in person to an Ontario Marriage License issuer. You will need to provide identification, such as a birth certificate (along with any change of name certificates), current passport, Record of Immigrant Landing or Canadian citizenship card, along with photo identification, for both the bride and the groom. Contact your City/ Municipality Clerk's Office for the location of the Marriage License Issuer nearest you and any further requirements.

If having the Banns of Marriage read in lieu of a license, the couple or at least one out of the couple must be a regular attendee and consider LEMC their home church for at least three months. The banns of marriage are read and the wedding is publicly announced during a morning worship service.

Once married you may wish to obtain a marriage certificate in order to change your

name or other legal documents. You will need to apply for this about three months following the wedding. The Government website -- ontario.ca/government/get-married-ontario -- has further information and links for getting a marriage certificate.

It is the responsibility of the couple to attain their marriage license several weeks before the wedding. Banns are provided by the church and there is no cost.

THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

As a licensed minister with the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada (EMCC) this affirms our commitment to biblical authority in our understanding of marriage. We are committed to following the teachings and example of Jesus. Like Jesus, we affirm the creation account as God's design for marriage. Marriage is meant to be an exclusive, lifelong commitment between one man and one woman. It is ordained by God to be their primary human relationship and is nurtured within the community of faith.

We take seriously our commitment to partner with you in building and maintaining Christ-like relationships within marriage. We will commit resources to celebrate and nurture the marriage relationship. **We are called to be involved in working with couples who are experiencing strained relationships** by encouraging honest acknowledgement of failure and hurt, asking for and offering forgiveness and working towards reconciliation, healing and restoration. We will do this through:

- Teaching biblical values and personal skills regarding wholesome marriage & healthy relationships.
- Counseling and mentoring that is preventative and remedial.
- Vulnerability, beginning with congregational leaders, that models and illustrates that the church is a safe place for openness.
- Sensitivity to early signals of marital distress in order to respond with appropriate interventions.

The biblical story makes it clear and human experience confirms that patterns of unhealthy attitudes and unloving behaviors can lead to marital breakdown.

Given the high value that God places on marriage, divorce, with the pain it brings, grieves God's heart. Yet God responds with grace, healing, and the offer of new life, and calls the community of faith to partner with him in this process. As healing agents we are called to be vulnerable, respectful, non-judgmental, skilled listeners, willing to be present with people in the depth of their pain. In this situation the church is called to speak the truth in love and to assist recovery after divorce by extending God's grace. We recognize that this process may open the way to healthy re-marriage.

SPIRITUAL COMPATIBILITY

We as a church family have many different people journey with us as their spiritual community. Many times people come from different backgrounds and share significantly different points of view on life and spirituality. The teaching of the Bible (2 Corinthians 6:14) is that people with fundamentally different spiritual convictions (e.g. a Christian and an agnostic, a Christian and a Buddhist) should not be bound together in marriage due to the significant stress it will place on the marriage as the couple's basic values and convictions are not aligned. Therefore, the officiating pastor will want to discuss this with you as a couple to understand and confirm your spiritual compatibility. If the pastor feels that from their perspective there are concerns about the health or compatibility of your marriage, they will share this with you.

WEDDING SERVICE PLANNER

An outline of a typical service with definitions:

- Prelude:** Music before the service
- Processional:** Music to which the bridesmaids and bride enter the church
- Words of Welcome:** Said by Pastor to guests at beginning of service
- Prayer:** Said by Pastor or person chosen by bride and groom
- Scripture:** Scriptures chosen by pastor/couple pertaining to love, and/or marriage
- Giving of the Bride:** Question is asked, "Who gives this woman to be married to this man?"
- Message:** Short message given by the Pastor to address congregation
- Expression of intent:** The Pastor asking the couple, "Do you choose . . ."
- Vows:** Either written by couple or traditional. Public promise of commitment
- Exchange of rings:** Exchanging gold bands as a symbol of the commitment made
- Prayer of blessing:** Said by Pastor over the couple
- Candle Ceremony or Sand Ceremony:** Three candles stand together. The two outside are lit (often by mothers) representing the two families. Bride and groom each take the candle representing their family and light the middle candle representing their new life together as one. *Sand Ceremony is similar using colored sand.*
- Declaration:** Pronouncing man and wife – you may now kiss your bride
- Signing the Register:** Signing the legal documents by the Province of Ontario

Receiving Line: New couple and attendants meet guests after the service. Typically much attention is given to the reception and the events following a wedding ceremony and not a lot of thought goes into the actual ceremony itself. This is YOUR day, your input is vital to making the ceremony memorable, special and personal. Most churches today forbid confetti on the property. Bubbles are great inside or outside the church.

A couple can do many different things in their ceremony to make it unique and individual. Having family members or friends take part by reading scripture, poetry, singing or instrumentals makes a ceremony very intimate. The couple should consider whether they want the traditional processional and recessional, or if there are songs that are meaningful to them (keeping in mind the seriousness and holiness of marriage.)

Using Children: Although very cute, can sometimes be a distraction and has proven disastrous to many a wedding! There should ALWAYS be someone available to retrieve the child/ren should they become tired, bored or risk taking away from the sanctity of the marriage vows and the couple. Children under three years old are not usually encouraged to be in the wedding party.

As in anything, the couple should expect to render a fee to those providing services for their wedding ceremony, eg. Pastor, Pianist, Custodian. The officiating pastor will usually set the fee prior to the service. This fee usually includes premarital counseling and a rehearsal. **If no fee has been set, it is etiquette to acknowledge those providing services in some way.**

It is the responsibility of the Bride and Groom to obtain a marriage license, book the church, music arrangements and arrange a meeting with the Pastor. The Pastor will then arrange what his routine as per pre-marital counseling is. Any special request regarding the ceremony should be discussed with the pastor prior to the set date of the ceremony.

WEDDING CEREMONY

Processional

All rise for the bride

Introduction:

Welcome, we are gathered together at this place and time to celebrate with _____ and _____ when as the Bible puts it, the two shall become one in Marriage.

The Word of God also tells us that marriage is an honoured event and holy. I would ask that in light of this that even if you are not generally in the habit of doing so to put your thoughts towards God, and the seriousness, as well as the joy, as this couple before God and all of you commit their lives to one another.

Prayer:

Giving away of the bride: Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Congregation may be seated.

Scriptures:

Message:

Expression of intent: Now that you have come before God and these witnesses to be joined in marriage,

“Do you _____ take _____ to be your wife; to love her, to cherish and honor her and to live with her in the consecrated state of marriage?”

“Do you _____ take _____ to be your husband; to love him, to cherish and honor him and to live with him in the consecrated state of marriage?”

Vows: I _____ choose you _____ to be my partner in marriage and in life. From this day forward I promise always to love you. To be at your side in sorrow and joy, to encourage and comfort you, to listen deeply when you need to be heard, to stand by you whatever changes may come, to not take you for granted, to always thank God for you in my life.

Ring Ceremony: These rings are a symbol of the love that is between you. The circle represents infinity, that there is no end to the love there. The gold represents the richness and purity of the love you share. As you wear them they are a reminder of the vows you have made to one another.

Exchange of Rings:

“This ring is my promise that I will always love you, that I will cherish and honor you all the days of my life.

Blessing

Declaration: For as much as you _____ and you _____ have consented together in wedlock and have pledged your love to each other and in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord I now pronounce you man and wife. What GOD has joined together let no man separate! **You may kiss your bride.**

Candle Ceremony (optional) or **Sand Ceremony** (optional)

Signing of the register

Presentation of the new couple

Recessional

(ONLINE) COUPLE'S INFO FORM

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We want to do all we can to help you plan your wedding. Please contact us with questions or concerns.



WEDDING RENTAL PACKAGE = \$350.00

Our LEMC wedding rental package includes use of the following spaces for the Friday (during office hours for set-up), Friday night (for rehearsal) and Saturday evening (until 10pm) of your rental booking.

- ◇ Auditorium & Fireside Room at your convenience
- ◇ Use of the Servery/Kitchen at your convenience
- ◇ Gymnasium (white or black round tablecloths included)



BOOK YOUR WEDDING
lemconline.org/facility

There are additional items available, which can be included in the price of your rental — please do not hesitate to inquire!

We're happy to help!



LIVE STREAM & VIDEOGRAPHY

*Tech people are available upon request:
Your special day can be captured and be
remembered for years to come!*

AUDIO/VISUAL SPECS

SOUND IN MAIN AUDITORIUM

We have a very capable in house sound system which includes a 32-channel digital Behringer X32, multiple stage monitor mixes, sm58 & sm57 mics, mic & music stands and several wireless mic options.

COMPUTER & PROJECTION

A Windows PC and projector is available for use to project and presentations, pictures, video's etc. HDMI & VGA connections are also available at the stage and rear sound desk for connection of your own laptop if preferred.

LIGHTING

A variety of flood and spot lights with limited direction offer full stage lighting and are controlled by a 16 channel lighting board. Lights are only white.

GYMNASIUM A/V

We have a 16-channel Mackie board on a portable stand that requires setup for any sound required in the gym. Also a portable projector, stand and fixed pull down screen are available for any projection requirements.

VIDEO PRODUCTION

We have a full video production facility using two cameras, switcher etc. for a professional looking production. Events can be easily live streamed on line and recorded for those friends and relatives who cannot make it to your wedding, funeral or event.

COST

Experienced operators are required to operate all our equipment. All tech team members receive \$75 for the first hour.

Then for every hour after:

Sound Technician: \$50/hr

Video Controller: \$65/hr

Computer Tech: \$40/hr

Camera Operator: \$40/hr

For full video production and live-streaming, all four technicians are required. One person can be a volunteer that you provide to operate the 2nd camera.

If you have questions or to arrange and schedule for your event, contact Maynard Bauman at 519-895-6135 or email maynardbauman@gmail.com



LEMC

1205 Tremaine Ave
Listowel, ON N4W 3G9
admin@lemconline.org